

Spring

2007

The English Update

Produced by BSC's English Society with assistance
from Dr. Benjamin Carson

English Society Update



English Society President Nicole Williams and Vice-President Amanda Viana in San Francisco Bay, California.

This semester the English Society planned the First Annual Bridgewater State College and Stonehill College Undergraduate English Conference

(see article in this newsletter) and co-sponsored the showing of *Polis is This*, which brought director Henry Ferrini to campus, along with *Word of Mouth*, SGA, and both the English and Communication Departments.

As the semester comes to a close it is a bitter sweet time for the English Society. ES President Nicole Williams and ES Vice-President Amanda Viana, co-founders of the English Society two years ago, will be graduating. As they say goodbye it is time to welcome an entirely new executive board to the English Society. For the 2007-2008 school year, the English Society Executive Board is Nick Frangipane-President, Jackie Poremski-Vice-President, and Sandra Stebenne-Secretary. The English Society has a Treasurer Position open and is also looking for new members. Watch for meeting information this September. Nick Frangipane and the English Society can be contacted at englishsociety@bridgew.edu.

On a personal note as editors of the English Department Newsletter Nicole Williams and Amanda Viana would like to thank the faculty of the English Department for their continued support throughout the last two years. Special thanks goes to Dr. Ann Brunjes for her support and assistance in the initial organization of the English Society and serving as club advisor during the 2005-2006 academic year. Special thanks also goes to Dr. Ben Carson for advising the English Society for the 2006-2007 academic year. The success of the English Society would

not have been possible without both of these individuals. The English Society is also grateful to the English Department and Dr. Lee Torda and Kathy Frederick from the Office of Undergraduate Research for their contributions and assistance in planning many events over the past two years. It has been a great run over the last two years working with faculty and students as well as meeting new people during events. Nicole and Amanda wish the new executive board the best of luck and continued success.

ATP Spring Symposium



Presenters Lisa Riva and Maria Alonzo chat in Moakley Atrium during the 7th Annual ATP Undergraduate Research Symposium.

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On Friday April 27, 2007, students and faculty gathered in the Moakley Center for the 7th annual Adrian Tinsley Undergraduate Research Spring Symposium. Over 90 BSC students presented research at the conference from a variety of academic disciplines, including Art, Art History, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, English, Foreign Languages, History, Mathematics, Philosophy, Physics, Psychology, Social Work, Sociology, and Theatre Arts. English Majors Williams Candler, Colleen Farrell, Anne-Marie Friedlander, James Norman, Lisa Riva, Lauren Scagnoli, Abby Sherwood, Brad Vezina, Amanda Viana, and Nicole Williams all presented at the conference.



Presenters Nicole Williams and Anne-Marie Friedlander pose for a picture with Dr. Michelle Cox and Dr. Ben Carson from the English Department.

Adrian Tinsley Program and the Office of Undergraduate Research NCUR

On April 11, 2007, 42 students and 5 faculty members boarded a plane for San Francisco where they attended the Twenty First Annual National Conference of Undergraduate Research at Dominican University of California. The 42 Bridgewater representatives joined over 2,500 undergraduate students from schools across the country at the conference, which ran from April 12-14. Among the Bridgewater delegation were 12 English majors presenting research on a variety of topics in English studies. Maria Alonzo, Colleen Farrell, Anne-Marie Friedlander, Stephen Johanson, James Norman, Jessica Martinho, Lisa Riva, Abby Sherwood, Brad Vezina, Amanda Viana, Nicole Williams, and Jay Wolan all presented at the conference.



Brad Vezina gives his presentation entitled "The Authenticity of Our Past: Forgery and Art."



Maria Alonzo and Colleen Farrell await the beginning of a panel session at NCUR 21



Stephen Johansen presents his creative work entitled "My Family of Veterans."

The Undergraduate Review

The staff of *The Undergraduate Review* announced the publication of its third volume of scholarly and creative work in April. The journal represents some of the best and brightest work happening at Bridgewater State College. This volume is one of their most diverse thus far. The journal includes a variety of disciplines and scholarly levels. Not only will you find work from Adrian Tinsley Grant recipients and National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) presenters, but you will also find their newest section of Bridgewater talent; work from first year students, Ryan Manning, Jason Williams, and Matthew Collins mentored by Lee Torda, Leora Lev, and Ben Carson respectively. Other students featured in the journal mentored by English faculty are: Melanie Terrill, mentored by Michelle Cox, Abby Sherwood and Amanda Viana, both mentored by Ann Brunjes, James Whittle, mentored by Anne Doyle, and Victoria Large, mentored by Leora Lev.

Copies of all three volumes of *The Undergraduate Review* are available at the The UR's new location- The Office of Undergraduate Research located at 200 Maxwell Library. Students wishing to submit to the journal are encouraged to browse through the volumes to view the type of work which is considered for publication. Submissions to the journal may be made online at www.bridge.edu/our. Students from all disciplines and scholarly levels are encouraged to submit. Any student or faculty member with questions regarding the submission policies and guidelines should email the Managing Editor, Stacy Nistendirk at theugreview@gmail.com.

Letter from the Acting Chair of the English Department

Dear Majors,

It's been an exceptionally busy and productive year in the English Department, and I have great deal to share with you. First, I am so happy to report that the department has hired five tenure-track faculty members: John Sexton (Medieval and Renaissance); Michael McClintock (Renaissance); James Crowley (Renaissance); Kimberly Chabot Davis (20th Century Literature and Film); Matthew Bell (20th Century Literature and Film).

I want to thank all the students who participated in the interview process by meeting with faculty members in Tilly 301. Your excellent questions and lively conversation with the candidates enabled us to hire the best possible people, and we are thrilled to welcome them to the department. Next year we will be conducting more searches, and your participation is again warmly encouraged. Keep on the look-out for invitations from the department to meet the candidates!

I am pleased to report that Dr. Evelyn Pezzulich is mending well from her back injury, and she will be returning to the department from her sabbatical and medical leaves in the fall. It is with mixed feelings, however, that I report to you the retirement of Dr. Delija Valiukenas. Dr. Valiukenas has served the department, students and college for more than 25 years. Her intelligence, wit and commitment to high academic standards will be missed by students and faculty alike. We wish her joy and good health as she embarks on the next journey of her life.

This fall, Dr. Ben Carson and Dr. Evelyn Pezzulich will be leading the department as we undertake the important process of program review. The department will be sending all current majors an electronic survey. Please respond promptly! The information you provide will help us shape the department for the next generation of BSC English Majors.

I continue to be overwhelmed by the accomplishments of our exceptional students. At the Division of Student Affairs Honors Celebration on Monday, April 30, these majors garnered awards: Outstanding Student Leadership: Will Candler; Parent Association Scholarship: Michele Lyons; Mary and Adrian Rondileau Scholarship Award: Will Candler; Dr. Ellen M. Shea Scholarship: Laura Piechowski; Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges: Zachary Benjamin, Claudina Silva. The following majors were honored at the School of Arts and Sciences Honors Celebration on Wednesday, May 2: The Edith G. Shoolman English Award: James Norman; Prof. Thomas M. Curley English Scholarship: Bradford Vezina; The Rose Leonard Coveney Award: Nicole Sanford; Dr. Harold G. Ridlon Memorial Scholarship: Michele Lyons; Dr. Wallace L. Anderson Scholarship: Margie Howe. Lastly, I congratulate Abby Sherwood, Brad Vezina, Amanda Viana, Michele McGrath and Lisa Riva on successful completion of Departmental Honors.

I wish you all good luck with your final essays and exams. Please accept my best wishes for a restful, healthy summer. We look forward to seeing you in the fall semester.

Yours,

Dr. Ann Brunjes
Associate Professor and Acting Department Chair

Word of Mouth

A new creative writing club, Word of Mouth Coalition, was established to expand the possibilities for creative writers on campus and provide a place where script writers, song writers and poets could elaborate as well as collaborate on their works. Student Leadership gave us full support right off the bat, and that really got things moving for us. On April 10 we co-sponsored an event with the English Society, SGA, and the English and Communications departments that brought director Henry Ferrini to Bridgewater. He screened his new film *Polis is This*, about Gloucester poet Charles Olson. After the film Ferrini answered questions and offered insight into Olson, historic Gloucester, and documentary film making. We'd like to thank everyone involved for their support in the project; working with other clubs with the same enthusiasm towards their major is great.

So far we've held six workshop meetings where different writers brought their work to the table. It's encouraging to see more and more creative writers on campus. With the presence of Word of Mouth, along with the Writer's Café, the Writing Studio, English Society, thebridge, and The Undergraduate Review, the voice of serious writing is getting louder on campus. Engaging in our own process of writing gives us the chance to develop and transcend our own ideas about music, poetry, and art. Collaborating with other writers on campus is a big part of that process for us. We're hoping we can put out a small publication of material that has been work-shopped at our meetings at the end of the semester. We meet from 4-5 on Mondays outside Maxwell Library, Room 7. (If it's nice out, we go to the outdoor classroom.) We're open to all students and faculty that just want to drop by and listen as well. Special thanks to our adviser John Mulrooney, who has gone above and beyond to help make this happen for the students.

thebridge

The editors of Volume IV of thebridge were proud to unveil the new volume at the third annual Festival of Arts this month. In addition to more work from BSC's finest writers and visual artists, it also features some of the writing and artwork from the Bridgewater Community and students who study at the University of Bahrain with BSC's Dr. Philip Tabakow.

This March, Volume III received a Gold Crown Award and nine Gold Circle Awards for individual works, including First Place in Overall Design and First Place for an Essay from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

The editors of Volume V are accepting submissions through December. Copies of Volume IV are on campus and, if requested, can also be delivered anywhere on campus.

Library News

This summer the third floor of the Maxwell Library will be renovated. Because of the extent of the project, both the third and second floors will be closed to everyone except library staff and faculty with offices on the second and third floors.

If you need books, either track them down before the conclusion of classes in early May, or be prepared to request them using a form from the library home page (as during the last two summers). This summer it will be more difficult for library staff to retrieve books from the third floor particularly.

The end result will be wonderful. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact either Mike Somers (x1255) or Marcia Dinneen (x1742).

Senior News

Will Candler, a double major in English and Theater, will be attending SUNY Binghamton in Binghamton, New York, as a Graduate student in Theater. He is the recipient of an assistantship.

English major Nicole Williams will be attending Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, as a Graduate student in the Master's Program for Rhetoric and Composition. She is also the recipient of an assistantship.

Amy Boivin will be attending the Master's in Library Science Program at Indiana University this fall.

First Annual Bridgewater State College and Stonehill College Undergraduate English Conference

As a rule, 9:00 AM on a Friday is a little known hour to the average college student. But on March 30, 2007, the dedicated and talented and entirely above average English majors of Stonehill and Bridgewater State braved the early hour to present on and listen to original research and writing in English Studies in the lovely Donahue Hall on Stonehill's campus. Stonehill was the host for the inaugural Conference of Undergraduate Research in English Studies. Students from both institutions presented in mixed panels on various topics. Presentations ranged from talks on such heavy literary hitters as Milton, Shakespeare, and Dostoyevsky to analyses of more contemporary texts, including *The Sopranos* and an ad for Burger King. The BSC English Dept. was represented by Will Candler, James Norman, Lauren Scagnoli, Abby Sherwood, Amanda Viana, and Nicole Williams who all presented scholarly research.

The day-long event was organized through the industry of the respective English Societies at each school under the careful guidance of Dr. Sarah Gracombe, Assistant Professor of English and advisor to the Stonehill College English Society, and Dr. Ben Carson, Assistant Professor of English and advisor to the Bridgewater English Society. Due to the efforts of Stonehill faculty, the event was unbelievably well attended. Student presenters had the opportunity to present before a nearly full house. The day would not have happened without all of their hard work and the financial support of Dr. Katie Conboy, the Vice President of Academic Affairs of Stone Hill College (and faculty member in English), Bridgewater State College's Office of Undergraduate Research, and the English Departments of Stonehill College and Bridgewater State College.

Amanda Viana, Secretary to Bridgewater's English Society, said about the day "we were very happy to be able to meet our colleagues from another institution and see the kind of work they were doing. It was weirdly fun to spend an entire day talking about English."

Everyone involved with the day agreed that the event was too good to happen just once. Plans are already in the works for next year's conference to be held on Bridgewater's campus.



Officers and advisors of the Bridgewater State and Stonehill English Societies pose for a picture at the first annual conference with their advisors.

Sigma Tau Delta

This semester Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, has been very busy with events, conferences, and programs both on campus and out of state. We held our annual induction ceremony on February 22, where we welcomed 19 new members into the organization and appointed the executive board members for the year. We were also graced with the presence of our speaker, Dr. Clifford Wood, Professor Emeritus, who offered a witty insight into his life, career, and what it means to be an educator. Sigma Tau Delta members have also been very active in participating in research conferences both at the local and national level. We had numerous representatives from Sigma Tau Delta share their research at the first annual Undergraduate Research Conference in conjunction with Stonehill College and the English Society, which proved a tremendous success. Also, many members represented both Sigma Tau Delta and Bridgewater State College at the National Conference of Undergraduate Research at Dominican University in San Rafael, California, where they presented research in their fields of interest, ranging from Melville to Milton and everywhere in between. Sigma Tau Delta has also reached out to the community and is participating in an after-school book reading program in conjunction with the Burnell School. Through this event, members of Sigma Tau Delta will be reading to elementary school children and giving back to the Bridgewater Community. Finally, we offer congratulations to the newest executive board members elected for the 2007-2008 school year: Abby Sherwood as President, Megan Tully as Vice-President, Nicholas Frangipane as Secretary and Krista Brewer as Treasurer. As we continue to grow as an honor society, we would love for you to join us. If interested, please contact advisor Ann Brunjes at abrunjes@bridgew.edu or President-Elect Abby Sherwood at asherwood@bridgew.edu for more information. Thank you and good luck during the remainder of the semester!



Dr. Cliff Wood addresses the new members of Sigma Tau Delta.



New Sigma Tau Delta inductees pose with the 2006-2007 Executive Board, advisor Dr. Ann Brunjes, and guest speaker Dr. Cliff Wood.

ATP Summer Grants 2007

Each summer the Adrian Tinsley Program awards \$3700 grants to a group of undergraduate students to spend ten weeks conducting their own research studies. The grants are awarded by the ATP advisory committee upon review of applicants' research proposals. For the 2007 season two English majors, Jessica Martinho and Colleen Farrell, have been awarded summer grants. Congratulations to you both.

Student Spotlight

Anne-Marie Friedlander

Class of 2007



The following is a letter from Anne-Marie discussing her academic career at Bridgewater.

Two years ago, I transferred from Bristol Community College in Fall River to Bridgewater State. I am an English Major with a concentration in Secondary Ed. Although I would have enjoyed more involvement in extra curricular activities, I found that my studies and my family left little time to pursue active involvement in any of the many organizations the college offers. Due to the gentle prodding of my professors, however, I did make time to submit an abstract to NCUR, which was accepted and presented in California. I owe a debt of gratitude to Lee

Torda, Ann Brunjes, and Ben Carson for believing in my abilities and encouraging me to act on them. NCUR was a wonderful opportunity to meet with students from many different backgrounds and disciplines, and I thank everyone involved who made it possible.

College has been an equally challenging, and rewarding experience for me. Before entering the world of academics, I was a part-time Oral Surgery Assistant, raising three children with my husband. When my youngest was nine, I began to entertain the idea of returning to school. I then got pregnant and became immersed once again in motherhood. When my fourth child was two, I realized I needed something more. For many years I had been a wife to a loving husband, and a mother to four children, which carries its own rewards and challenges. But I had reached a point in my life where I wanted to explore what it meant to be me. Wanting to test my toes in the waters of academia before taking the plunge, I began slowly at Bristol Community College, taking one or two courses; three years later I transferred all of my credits to Bridgewater and became a full-time student. Balancing family and academics was often difficult. Luckily, my family was supportive of my efforts and lived with mounds of laundry, hastily prepared meals, and my absence from family gatherings and excursions so that I could devote time to my studies.

I cannot say which classes I most enjoyed. I enjoyed them all! I have been fortunate to have studied under what I consider "the best of the best," and to those professors whose classes I attended, you know who you are. I would, however, like to offer one special note of thanks to Ann Brunjes, my professor, my mentor, my friend. Thank you for always being there for me (especially at those end-of-semester-meltdowns). Your encouragement, your advice and your friendship has meant more than you know!

One of my very wise professors, Lois Poule, once posed the question in class: "What do you value?" Although the answer encompasses many things, at the top of my list are: my family, my friends, and this institution for giving me the opportunity to explore who I am while surrounded by a staff of caring, encouraging, and supportive individuals. Let me take this opportunity to give a heart-felt thank you. I will miss you all!

Faculty Accomplishments

Although on sabbatical this spring, Dr. Evelyn Pezzulich was part of a panel presentation on the Connect Writing Project at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in March. Dr. Pezzulich also delivered a paper entitled "From Haute Couture to Cistercian Habit: Creating Identity through Adornment or Simplicity" in April at the 2007 Joint Conference of the National Popular Culture and American Culture Associations, and published a paper entitled "A Passing Fashion: Appearance and Transcendence in Doris Lessing's *The Summer Before the Dark* and Paule Marshall's *Praisesong for the Widow in Americana: The Journal of American Popular Culture*.

In March Dr. Kathy Evans gave a paper entitled "Towards a Taxonomy of the Functions of Silence in Writing Conferences" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in New York. That month she also gave a paper entitled "Exploring the Functions of Silence in Writing Conferences" at the Northeastern Writing Centers Association conference at the University of Connecticut.

Dr. Arnold Girdharry's book manuscript, *Arnie: Reflections of an Immigrant Teacher*, is currently being read for publication.

Visiting Lecturer, Jennifer A. Fallas, presented "The Shifting Borders of Identity: Pilar as Mestizaje in Cristina García's *Dreaming in Cuban*" at the PCA/ACA conference in Boston on March 7, 2007 and at the College English Association National Conference in New Orleans on March 12. She will present "American Pop-Culture and Bias: Teaching Rhetoric to First-Year Writing Students" at the CONNECT conference in West Barnstable on May 30, 2007.

Dr. Benjamin D. Carson presented "'Your people? We're not your people': Sherman Alexie's 'Class' and The Trouble with Diversity" at the Northeast Modern Language Association Conference in Baltimore, MD, on March 3, 2007. He also presented "A Wasi'chu at the Sun Dance: Unconditional Hospitality, or Welcoming the 'Wholly Other'" at the College English Association National Conference in New Orleans on April 13. Dr. Carson's entry on Craig S. Womack's *Red on Red: Native American Literary Separatism* has been published in the *Encyclopedia of American Indian Literatures*, edited by Jennifer McClinton-Temple and Alan Velie.

Dr. John Kucich's entry on Sarah Winnemucca has also been published in the *Encyclopedia of American Indian Literatures*. Dr. Kucich presented "John Muir in Alaska" at the Northeast Modern Language Association Conference in Baltimore, MD, on March 3, 2007.

Acting Chair Dr. Ann Brunjes was awarded the 2007 Dr. V. James Dinardo Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award is presented to a current member of the BSC faculty whose contributions include mastery of subject matter, enthusiastic teaching style, and personal attention to students. Also, Dr. Brunjes presented "Timothy Dwight's Surprising Encounters with the Land in Greenfield Hill and Travels in New England and New York" at the Northeast Modern Language Association Conference in Baltimore, MD, on March 4, 2007.

Dr. Michelle Cox currently serves as the Vice Chair of Northeast Writing Centers Association (NEWCA). For the upcoming academic year, she will serve as the Chair of NEWCA. In March, Dr. Cox presented "'Trials and Errors': Implications of Being Identified as an 'ESL' Graduate Student" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) in New York City.